AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A rigid fastener for securing to one another adjacent portions of a cover member made of resiliently yieldable material, said fastener being of generally cylindrical form and having opposite end portions, at least one of said end portions being a double-effect engagement portion comprised of an axially outward end section, having a first inside diameter and a first effective outside diameter, and an axially adjacent inward section having a second inside diameter and a second effective outside diameter, wherein said second effective outside diameter is substantially larger than said first effective outside diameter, each of said sections of said engagement portion being comprised of a plurality of circumferentially extending, mutually adjacent retaining elements engageable in mating recess sections formed into a portion of a resiliently yieldable cover member, said retaining elements of said outward end section of said engagement portion being of said first effective outside diameter and said retaining elements of said inward section being of said second effective outside diameter, wherein said first inside diameter and said second inside diameter are substantially the same, and wherein at least some of said retaining elements of said inward section are rounded.

2. (original) The fastener of Claim 1 wherein at least a multiplicity of said retaining elements extends continuously about said engagement portion of said fastener.

3. (currently amended) The fastener of Claim 1 wherein at least a peripheral edge portion of at least a multiplicity of said retaining elements tapers in the outward direction of said engagement portion, and said multiplicity of elements are of generally barb-like form.

4. (original) The fastener of Claim 1 wherein each of said sections of said engagement portion comprises three of said retaining elements.

5. (original) The fastener of Claim 1 wherein both of said opposite end portions of said fastener is a said double-effect engagement portion.

6. (original) The fastener of Claim 5 wherein said fastener is symmetrical about a trans-axial, medial plane between the opposite ends thereof.

7. (original) The fastener of Claim 6 additionally including a central portion disposed between said opposite end portions.

8. (currently amended) The fastener of Claim 7 wherein said central portion of said fastener has an effective outside diameter not larger than said second effective outside diameter of said inward section of said engagement portions.

9. (currently amended) The fastener of Claim 7 wherein said central portion of said fastener has an effective outside diameter larger than said second effective outside diameter of said inward section of said engagement portions.

10. (original) The fastener of Claim 7 wherein said central portion is comprised of a multiplicity of elements extending generally radially outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis of said fastener.